DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 405 391 UD 029 877

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TITLE Immigrants and the American City. A Twentieth Century Fund Book.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-8147-5479-1
PUB DATE 93
NOTE 380p.
AVAILABLE FROM New York University Press, The Maple Press Distribution Center, I-83 Industrial Park POB 15100, York, PA 17405.
PUB TYPE Books (010)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Adult Education; *Bilingual Education; *Cultural Differences; Economic Factors; Elementary Secondary Education; Ethnic Groups; *Immigrants; Inner City; Labor Market; *Low Income Groups; *Migration Patterns; Urban Areas; Urban Problems; *Urban Schools; Vocational Education
IDENTIFIERS *Immigration Impact; Urban Revitalization

ABSTRACT

The latest immigration surge, which began in the 1960s, has facilitated urban renewal by strengthening small businesses, providing low-wage labor, and maintaining the population base needed to sustain a high level of economic activity. In spite of the contributions of immigrants, American central cities continue to face serious economic disruptions and problems. This examination of the new immigration argues that the benefits of immigration will come to outweigh the costs. In the examination of the entire immigrant question, the author touches on a number of issues related to education, beginning with the educational backgrounds of different ethnic and national-origin groups. Implications of the new immigrant worker for occupational education and for adult education and training are discussed. Particular attention is paid to the controversy surrounding bilingual education, and the problems faced in trying to educate a diverse population of children are briefly reviewed. School districts face a multitude of problems in trying to accommodate an increasingly diverse, and frequently low-income population, without an accompanying increase in economic support. Education is a vital factor in assuring that immigrants bring to America today the many benefits they have brought in the past. (SLD)

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